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# HISPANIA

VOLUME III

*February, 1920*

NUMBER 1

## **UNITED STATES EXCHANGE PROFESSORSHIPS WITH HISPANIC COUNTRIES**

[A circular letter published by a committee on Hispanic American Relations of the University of California last fall, and sent to the Colleges and Universities of the United States. On account of its great importance to all Hispanists, we take pleasure in publishing it in HISPANIA.—*The Editors.*]

In recent years, publicists have advocated a system of exchange professors between this and other countries. In particular they have recommended such exchanges between the United States and the countries of Hispanic America, because of the growing importance of the international relations involved. Situated as it is on former Spanish soil, the University of California has felt that it could with propriety assist in the development of such closer relations.

The late Professor H. Morse Stephens had made tentative arrangements for exchanges between the University of California and certain universities in Spain, Mexico, and Chile. One of these exchanges, that with the Republic of Chile, has developed into a much larger project than Professor Stephens originally contemplated. In January, 1919, a Chilean Commission, appointed by President Sanfuentes, and headed by Dr. Don Pedro Aguirre, reached Berkeley, and opened negotiations with the University for a series of exchanges. The views and purposes of the Republic of Chile were as follows:

For a number of years Chile has looked almost wholly to France and Germany for educational inspiration. Recently Chile has decided

to come instead to the United States, both for teachers who might visit Chile, and for the information which Chilean students and professors might obtain through their researches here. Therefore, the Chilean Government proposed to establish an exchange with the United States of from two to four professors a year. Of those from the United States who should visit Chile it was proposed that one should represent a department (economics, history, political science, law, etc.) of some university, a second should represent technical schools (agriculture, engineering, manual training, mining, etc.), a third the normal schools, and a fourth the schools of secondary grade. The Chilean government desired that one of the two latter should be a young woman who should teach in some Chilean school for girls.

Dr. Benjamin Ide Wheeler, at the time president of the University of California, appointed a committee which has since been made permanent, under the title *Committee on Hispanic American Relations*, and called upon it to discuss the Chilean project with the commission headed by Dr. Aguirre. After various conferences between these two bodies, it was decided that the Committee on Hispanic American Relations of the University of California should act as the agent of the Republic of Chile in this country to make arrangements for the exchanges. In this form the University authorities, in March, 1919, ratified the project. In June the government of Chile took similar action, at the same time appropriating \$12,000, to carry the exchanges into effect for the year 1920.

The plan for the exchanges calls for each country to pay the salary and traveling expenses of its own professors, receiving in exchange, free of charge, the professors coming from the other country; thus Americans who go to Chile from the United States will receive their salary and traveling expenses from the institutions they represent in this country (although it is hoped that a way will be found to relieve them of this burden), while the Chilean government will pay the salary and expenses of the Chileans who come here.

The Committee on Hispanic American Relations does not intend to limit appointments to teachers of the University of California and the secondary schools of the state. Indeed, the committee believes that the purposes of the exchanges will be better served if the appointments are made from different parts of the country. It is on this account that this circular is being sent out to institutions in every state of the Union.

An earnest effort will be made in every case to select candidates for the exchanges who will best reflect credit upon this country and meet with the approbation of the government of Chile. The appointees must be able to speak Spanish, since it will be necessary to conduct their classes in that language. In each year there are to be not less than two or more than four exchange professors from each country, of whom one at the most is to exchange with a professor of the University of Chile; the others (one, two, or three, as the case may be) are to exchange with teachers in technical and secondary schools. In all likelihood, however, the exchanges, at the outset, will be limited to two from each country. The teachers from secondary schools who go to Chile will probably be called upon to teach English, unless they are able to handle such subjects as manual arts, agriculture, etc.

Candidates for these appointments should come from institutions which are willing to bear the expense involved; these institutions in turn will receive the services of the Chilean representatives free of charge. Candidates must represent institutions which would be desirable fields for the Chileans in their researches and observations while here. It is probable that the Chilean teachers will ordinarily be equipped to teach such subjects as Spanish, and the history, law, and other social, economic, political, and intellectual factors in contemporary Hispanic American life. Exchanges therefore will usually be limited to universities and large city schools in this country.

The Chilean school year begins in March and ends in December. This means that representatives from the United State should apply for leaves of absence to begin in January, at which time the teachers from Chile are to arrive to take their places.

The committee of the University of California wishes to lay special emphasis upon the benefits which Chile hopes to receive from these exchanges. While the Chileans expect to derive some advantage from the work of our teachers in Chile, they hope to profit yet more from the researches of their own representatives in this country, and especially from their association with our teaching bodies in the work of our schools. It is desirable, therefore, that too much work should not be imposed upon them, and that they should be given every opportunity for investigation during their stay in this country.

For the year 1920 the Committee on Hispanic American Relations has appointed, as exchange professors, Dr. Charles E. Chapman, Associate Professor of Hispanic American History in the University of California, and Mr. Edward M. Gregory, teacher of Spanish in the San Francisco Polytechnic High School. For the year 1921 it is hoped that representatives may be obtained from other states. This circular is therefore being sent out to institutions which the committee believes will be able and willing to coöperate with it in this important work for the United States in its relations with Hispanic America and for the cause of education in general.

For the Committee on Hispanic American Relations,

HERBERT I. PRIESTLEY, Secretary.

CHARLES E. CHAPMAN, Chairman.

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA, October 16, 1919.

Address all communications to the Chairman or the Secretary of the Committee, University of California, Berkeley, California.